HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND ETHICS

With a Foreword by Hugo Slim
Edited by Ayesha Ahmad and James Smith

More praise for *Humanitarian Action and Ethics*

'An important and valuable book on the ethical challenges arising in humanitarian action. It highlights the complex range of challenges, while also presenting practical and constructive recommendations from authors who have worked on the front line of humanitarian crises.'

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'Powerfully depicts the ethical challenges pervading a world which deliberately generates so much human suffering through disasters and conflict. The chapters demonstrate what we can do to help, despite the moral entanglements of today's humanitarian labyrinth.'

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ZED

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‘Books change us. Books save us. I know this because it happened to me. Books saved me. So I do believe through stories we can learn to change, we can learn to emphasise, and be more connected with the universe, and with humanity.’

Elif Shafak

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Ayesha Ahmad

The book has been a huge undertaking and most definitely a wonderful global and cultural experience. The desire to develop a book such as *Humanitarian Action and Ethics* has been longstanding, and I am thoroughly grateful for all of those who have helped bring an idea into reality.

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James Smith

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From natural disaster areas to conflict zones, humanitarian workers today find themselves operating in diverse and difficult environments. While humanitarian work has always presented unique ethical challenges, such efforts are now further complicated by the impact of globalization, the escalating refugee crisis, and mounting criticisms of established humanitarian practice.

Featuring contributions from humanitarian practitioners, health professionals, and social and political scientists, this book explores the question of ethics in modern humanitarian work, drawing on the lived experience of humanitarian workers themselves. Its essential case studies cover humanitarian work in countries ranging from Haiti and South Sudan to Syria and Iraq, and address issues such as gender-based violence, migration, and the growing phenomenon of 'volunteer tourism'. Together, these contributions offer new perspectives on humanitarian ethics, as well as insight into how such ethical considerations might inform more effective approaches to humanitarian work.

'Ahmad and Smith expertly dissect the moral and ethical dilemmas inherent in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, helping aid workers develop the practical approaches needed for effective responses.'

Unni Karunakara, Yale School of Public Health, and former International President of MSF

'Brings fresh thinking to the field of practical ethics in aid, and helps to bridge the divide between academics and practitioners.'

Neal Keny-Guyer, CEO, Mercy Corps

'Remarkably interdisciplinary, deeply thought-provoking, and relentlessly practical, *Humanitarian Action and Ethics* will be instructive to scholars, practitioners and the interested public alike.'

Janina Dill, University of Oxford

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